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LETTER DATED 20 JULY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 20 July 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Mate Granić, addressed to you (see annex).

I would kindly request your assistance in circulating this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 20 July 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with serious concern that my Government is monitoring the ongoing offensive against the safe area of Bihać. This offensive is coordinated in Belgrade, and carried out by Yugoslav Army personnel in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with Croatian Serb and Bosnian Serb irregular forces, led by "Yugoslav Army" generals Mile Mrkšić and Manojlo Milovanović.

The information available indicates that the attack on the Bihać safe area is receiving strong support, with heavy artillery from the Croatian side of the border, by Croatian Serb irregular forces. About 9,500 troops from Croatian Serb "Lika Corps" and other units from sector "Glina" are participating in the offensive, and are attacking the southern part of the safe area of Bihać, blatantly violating the international border between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The defending forces of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina Fifth Corps have been driven back up to 5 kilometres from the international border in some locations.

My Government is aware of the major build-up of Serb irregular forces in sectors "Knin" and "Glina", where most of the forcibly mobilized personnel from the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" have been sent. This has been accompanied by reinforcements in armaments and ammunition - in addition to the situation of which I have informed the Security Council on 28 June 1995 (S/1995/518). At present, an additional mixed artillery platoon has been deployed in the vicinity of Selište Drežničko, one anti-aircraft platoon of SA-2 "Volhov" SAM missiles in the vicinity of Rakovica, one unit of land-to-land missile launchers "Košava" in Rakovica - all of which are deployed in the ongoing offensive. The entire operation is supported by fighter/aircraft from the airfield in Udbina and rotary-wing aircraft "GaMa" deployed from the helicopter base in Krnjak - all locations in sector "Glina" in the occupied territories of Croatia.

In total, the reinforcements sent from the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" to the occupied territories of Croatia number over 8,500 troops, including thousands of special unit troops, forcibly mobilized personnel, and hundreds of command personnel commissioned in the "Army of Yugoslavia". In this regard, I wish to reiterate that General Mrkšić has been recently transferred from the position of Assistant Chief-of-Staff for Commando Forces of the General Staff of the "Army of Yugoslavia", providing compelling evidence of Belgrade's active involvement in the Serbian military operations in the Republic of Croatia and in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Due to the volume of equipment deployed and the number of troops used in this offensive, and taking into consideration the strength of the attack, it can be estimated that the units of the Fifth Corps could be pressed back between 10 and 15 kilometres from the international border of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina within the next 36-48 hours.

Since the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) has not been deployed in accordance with its mandate, and its personnel is experiencing severe restriction on movement throughout the occupied territories of Croatia, it might not be in the position to confirm the above information. Therefore, the Republic of Croatia calls upon Member States that have the intelligence resources available to independently confirm the situation on the ground from their national sources.

I wish to reiterate the position of the Croatian Government, expressed on the adoption of Security Council resolution 1004 (1995), that the displacement of the population of the Bihać safe area - numbering about 200,000 - would be considered a serious threat to the security and stability of the Republic of Croatia. Therefore, if the status of Bihać as a safe area becomes threatened, the Republic of Croatia may be compelled to take the necessary measures to secure its status and security.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs